

Consider Travel Insurance Before Hitting the Road

Do I need travel insurance?

Consider the following questions.

- What are the chances you'll be impacted by severe weather or missing baggage?
- How willing are you to take risks?
- How much are you willing to pay for a backup plan?
- Do you have questionable health or is a loved one ill?

If you cannot afford to cancel and rebook your trip or your health insurance doesn't cover you abroad, travel insurance may be for you. You typically don't need travel insurance for short trips close to home.

Travel insurance usually costs between 4 percent to 10 percent of a trip's cost. For a trip totaling \$5,000, travel insurance could range from \$200 to \$500 depending on the coverage. Also consider your destination. A traveler hiking in Kenya will have vastly different risks than someone taking in the sights of New York City.

Travel Insurance Basics

There are four main categories of travel insurance:

- **Trip cancellation** - Reimburses pre-paid travel expenses if you are prevented from taking your trip because you become ill or die.
- **Travel medical** - Reimburses medical and emergency dental expenses that you incur because of an illness or injury while you're traveling.
- **Emergency medical evacuation** - Provides emergency transportation to either a hospital in the geographic region where you are and/or transportation back to a hospital near your home.
- **Accidental death/Flight accident** - Accidental death covers death or dismemberment at any time during a trip while air flight accident covers death or dismemberment during flight only.

Other Considerations

Travel insurance is intended to protect travelers against sudden and unforeseen events. Typically, if you buy travel insurance after a winter or tropical storm is named, your plan won't provide coverage for claims related to that event.

If your flight is delayed, you may or may not be covered. Some policies only cover a trip cancellation claim if you lose more than 50 percent of your scheduled trip length due to a covered delay. You also must make a good faith effort to continue your travels using alternative means.

Most homeowners insurance policies cover personal property lost or stolen during a trip. Check with your home insurer to see what they cover while you are traveling. If you have expensive items, you might want to purchase a floater to add to your current homeowners policy to cover those items.



Louisiana Department of Insurance
James J. Donelon, Commissioner

Phone toll-free: 1-800-259-5300
Website: www.ldi.la.gov